STREAM FREE / PRODUCT COMPARISON

Which Freeview Recorder Should You Buy: Bigger Storage or Better Value?

Manhattan T4-R 2TB vs BT G4 YouView+ comparison: compare storage, 4K support, reviews, price and value to choose the best Freeview recorder.

	Manhattan T4-R 2TB Freeview Play 4K TV Recorder	BT G4 YouView+ Smart 500 GB Freeview HD Digital TV...
Image		
Price	£239.99	**£144.99**
Rating	**4.4/5**	4.3/5
Reviews	1333	**2200**

Products Featured in This Guide

Manhattan T4-R 2TB Freeview Play 4K TV Recorder

£239.99 4.4★

BT G4 YouView+ Smart 500 GB Freeview HD Digital TV Recorder Set Top Box

£144.99 4.3★

Display / picture quality On paper, the Manhattan T4-R 2TB wins this category because it is the only one of the two positioned as a 4K TV recorder. That matters if you have a 4K TV and want a box that is better aligned with modern displays, even if much of Freeview content itself is still broadcast in HD or below. The BT G4 YouView+ is a Freeview HD recorder, so it is more limited in future-facing picture capability. If your priority is getting the best match for a newer TV, Manhattan takes the point.

Winner: Manhattan T4-R 2TB

Performance The Manhattan also has the advantage in storage capacity, with 2TB versus 500GB on the BT box. That is a huge difference for recording performance in practical terms, because it directly affects how many hours of TV you can keep before deleting old shows. For households that record lots of dramas, soaps, films, or sports, 2TB is far more comfortable and reduces the need to micromanage recordings. The BT G4's 500GB is fine for lighter use, but it will fill up much faster.

In day-to-day use, both are designed to be straightforward set-top boxes rather than high-end media hubs, but the Manhattan's larger storage and newer positioning make it the better long-term performer for heavy recorders.

Winner: Manhattan T4-R 2TB

Build quality and design This is closer than the storage spec suggests. BT's G4 YouView+ has a long-standing reputation and a very large review base, with 2,199 reviews at 4.3/5, which suggests a product many people have lived with and generally found reliable. The Manhattan T4-R 2TB scores slightly higher at 4.4/5 from 1,328 reviews, which is a strong sign too, but with fewer total reviews. In design terms, both are practical living-room boxes rather than statement pieces, so the real question is which feels less compromised.

If you value proven familiarity and a slightly cheaper, simpler box, BT has the edge. If you prefer the more premium-feeling spec sheet and newer feature set, Manhattan still looks stronger overall. Because build quality is hard to judge from specs alone, this category is effectively a narrow win for BT on trust and volume of feedback.

Winner: BT G4 YouView+

Battery life Neither product is battery-powered, so battery life is not a meaningful comparison here. Both are mains-powered TV recorders, so there is no portability angle to consider. In practical buying terms, this category is not relevant.

Winner: tie

Price and value for money This is where the BT G4 YouView+ makes its case. At £144.99, it is £95 cheaper than the Manhattan T4-R 2TB at £239.99. That is a substantial saving, and for many households the BT box offers the better value if you mainly want reliable Freeview HD recording without paying for extra storage you may never fully use. The BT also has the higher review count, which can make it feel like the safer budget-conscious buy.

However, value is not just about the lowest price. The Manhattan's extra £95 buys you 1.5TB more storage and 4K positioning, which is a meaningful upgrade for anyone who records a lot or wants a more future-proof box. If you use your recorder heavily, the Manhattan can justify its higher price more easily than the BT can justify its smaller hard drive.

Winner: BT G4 YouView+

Game library / features For this category, think of “features” rather than games, because neither product is a gaming device. The Manhattan T4-R 2TB wins on feature appeal because its 4K branding and larger 2TB capacity make it the more capable box for a modern TV setup. The BT G4 YouView+ is more basic: it is a Freeview HD recorder with smart TV recording features, but it does not bring the same headline upgrade in resolution support or storage headroom.

If you want the more ambitious spec sheet and a recorder that feels more future-ready, Manhattan is the better-equipped product. If you want simple, familiar Freeview+ functionality with less to spend, BT is still perfectly serviceable.

Winner: Manhattan T4-R 2TB

Overall user experience For most buyers, the experience comes down to how much TV you record and how much you want to spend. The BT G4 YouView+ is the easier recommendation for price-sensitive shoppers because it is £95 cheaper and backed by a very large number of reviews. It should suit smaller households, lighter recorders, and anyone who just wants a dependable Freeview HD box without overpaying.

The Manhattan T4-R 2TB is the better all-rounder if you want the stronger spec: 2TB of storage, 4K positioning, and a slightly higher user rating of 4.4/5. That combination makes it the more capable recorder for heavy use and the better choice for people who hate running out of space. In short, BT is the value pick; Manhattan is the premium pick.

Overall summary: the Manhattan T4-R 2TB is the better product if you want the best long-term recorder and can justify the extra spend. The BT G4 YouView+ is the smarter buy if you want to save £95 and still get a solid, well-reviewed Freeview recorder.

Winner: a

The Manhattan T4-R 2TB is the better overall buy because it offers far more storage, a 4K-ready position, and a slightly higher user rating. Its 2TB hard drive is a major practical advantage over the BT's 500GB, especially for households that record a lot of TV. Although it costs £95 more, the extra capacity and more future-proof feature set make it the stronger long-term choice.

Buy Product A If...

Buy the Manhattan T4-R 2TB if you record lots of shows, films, or sport and want to avoid constantly deleting old recordings. It is also the better choice if you have a 4K TV and want a recorder that feels more future-ready. The bigger hard drive alone makes it much better for heavy-use households.

Buy Product B If...

Buy the BT G4 YouView+ if you want the cheapest sensible option and mainly need reliable Freeview HD recording. It is a strong pick for lighter viewers, smaller households, or anyone who wants to keep the upfront cost down. The large review count also makes it feel like a safe, proven buy.

Read the full review with live prices and price history at allthetoppicks.com

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